

In the claims:

Kindly rewrite the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An extract of *Cryptomeria japonica* D. Don buds ~~which may be~~ obtained by a first solid/liquid extraction step, followed by a second solid/liquid separation step, then a third liquid phase retrieval step.
2. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solid/liquid extraction step is performed by maceration, remaceration, digestion, dynamic maceration, fluid bed extraction, microwave-assisted extraction, ultrasound-assisted extraction, countercurrent extraction, percolation, repercolation, leaching, low-pressure extraction, diacolation, supercritical fluid extraction or solid-liquid extraction with continuous reflow (soxhlet).
3. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a bud/solvent ratio in the solid/liquid extraction step is between 1/99 and 80/20 ~~(by weight)~~ by weight.
4. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solid/liquid extraction step is performed at a temperature between 3°C and 100°C, preferably between 20°C and 60°C.
5. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solid/liquid separation step is performed by draining, pressing, spin drying, centrifugation or filtration.
6. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~liquid/solid~~ solid/liquid separation step is followed by at least one clarification step.

7. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the liquid/solid solid/liquid separation step is followed by a concentration step.
8. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in ~~either claim 6 or 7, characterized~~ in that wherein the at least one clarification and/or concentration steps are ~~step is~~ followed by a sterilizing 0.22- μ m filtration step.
9. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the extract is dried after the liquid/solid solid/liquid separation step by lyophilization, atomization or vacuum evaporation.
10. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein when the extract is in liquid form, it has a dry matter content between 1 and 100 g/kg.
11. (Currently Amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein when ~~it~~ the extract is in dry form, it has a dry matter content between 10 and 1000 g/kg.
12. (Currently Amended) A method for stimulating ~~An extract as claimed in claim 1~~ used to stimulate the synthesis of essential components of the extracellular matrix through the dermis cells comprising applying an extract as claimed in claim 1 to said dermis cells.
13. (Currently Amended) A method for cytoprotection of ~~An extract as claimed in claim 1 used for its cytoprotective activity on the skin~~ comprising applying an extract as claimed in claim 1 to said skin.
14. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~An extract as claimed in claim 1 used for its stimulating activity on epidermal cell metabolism~~ comprising applying an extract as claimed in claim 1 to said epidermal cells.

15. (Original) A cosmetic composition containing an extract of *Cryptomeria japonica* buds as claimed in claim 1.
16. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the extract represents between 0.1% and 10% of the composition by weight, preferably between 0.3% and 3%.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the composition as claimed in claim 15, in topical application, as an age-defying,~~ A method for moisturizing, normalizing and stimulating agent for the complexion's radiance comprising topically applying the composition of claim 15.
18. (New) An extract as claimed in claim 7, wherein the concentration step is followed by a sterilizing 0.22- μ m filtration step.
19. (New) An extract according to claim 1 obtained by:
- (1) extracting *Cryptomeria japonica* D. Don buds with water, alcohol or a polyol to provide a solid phase and a liquid phase;
 - (2) separating said solid phase and liquid phase; and
 - (3) clarifying said liquid phase.
20. (New) A process for preparing an extract of *Cryptomeria japonica* D. Don buds, comprising a first solid/liquid extraction step, followed by a second solid/liquid separation step, followed by a third liquid phase retrieval step.
21. (New) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein:
- the first step comprises extracting *Cryptomeria japonica* D. Don buds with water, alcohol or a polyol to provide a solid phase and a liquid phase;
 - the second step comprises separating said solid phase from said liquid phase; and
 - the third step comprises clarifying said liquid phase.